

CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An inmate visitation system, comprising:
 - means for determining via a prison interface if the inmate has visitation privileges;
 - means for receiving a visitation request only from an inmate having said visitation privileges for a plurality of potential visitors to attend the same visitation in person with said inmate at a correctional facility in which said inmate is housed, each of said potential visitors being named in said request by said privileged inmate;
 - means for sending a registration request to each of the plurality of potential visitors based upon the received visitation request;
 - means for receiving registration information from said each of said plurality of potential visitors based upon the sent registration request;
 - means, responsive to operation of said registration information receiving means, for determining whether the visitation request from the privileged inmate is approved or disapproved;
 - means for communicating the approval or disapproval of the visitation request; and

means, operative in response to said registration receiving means, for permitting one of said plurality of said potential visitors to schedule said same visitation for all of said plurality of potential visitors if said visitation request is approved.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
means for recording information associated with one or more of the visitation request, the registration request and the visitation approval or disapproval.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the means for determining is at least one of a prison official and an analytical process that reviews at least one of historical visitation requests and visitation data.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the means for recording further maintains a history of potential visitors including the plurality of potential visitors requested by the privileged inmate.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the visitation request includes at least one of a name, address, telephone number and relationship to the privileged inmate of at least one of the plurality of potential visitors.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
means for scheduling, for approved ones of the potential visitors, an available time to visit the privileged inmate.

7. (Previously Presented) A method for registering potential visitors of incarcerated inmates, comprising:

determining, via a prison interface, if any of the incarcerated inmates have visitation privileges;

receiving, via operational performance of a computer, a visitation request from a privileged inmate for a plurality of potential visitors to attend the same visitation in person with said privileged inmate within a correctional facility in which said privileged inmate is incarcerated, each of said potential visitors being named in said request by said inmate;

sending, via operational performance of said computer, a registration request to each of the plurality of potential visitors based upon the received visitation request;

receiving, via operational performance of said computer, registration information from said each of said plurality of potential visitors based upon the sent registration request;

determining, as a function of said registration information, whether the visitation request from the inmate is approved or disapproved;

communicating, via operational performance of said computer, the approval or disapproval of the visitation request; and

permitting, via operational performance of said computer, one of said plurality of said potential visitors to schedule said same visitation for all of said plurality of potential visitors if said visitation request is approved.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

recording information associated with one or more of the visitation request, the registration request and the visitation approval or disapproval.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the determining is at least one of a manual and an automated process that reviews at least one of historical visitation requests and visitation data.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein recording further comprises maintaining a history of potential visitors including the plurality of potential visitors requested by the inmate.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the visitation request includes at least one of a name, address, telephone number and relationship to the inmate of at least one of the plurality of potential visitors.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
scheduling, for approved ones of the potential visitors, an available time to visit the inmate.

13. (Previously Presented) A tangible computer program product including computer-readable program code for use in a computer, said computer readable program code comprising:

visitation registration program code executable on said computer only for visitation requests made via a prison interface by inmates having visitation privileges, said visitation registration program code for

receiving a visitation request from a privileged inmate for a plurality of potential visitors to attend the same visitation in person with said privileged inmate at a prison in which said privileged inmate is incarcerated, each of said potential visitors being named in said request by said inmate;

automatically approving or disapproving a registration request for each of the plurality of potential visitors, the registration request sent to each of the plurality of potential visitors based upon the visitation request; and

recording information associated with at least one of the visitation request and the registration request; and

visitation scheduling program code for permitting an approved one of said plurality of said potential visitors to schedule an available time for all approved ones of said plurality of potential visitors to visit said inmate at said same visitation.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the visitation scheduling program code is accessed by an approved potential visitor

15. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the visitation registration program code further comprises communicating disapproval of the registration request in response to the registration request.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the visitation registration program code further allows the plurality of potential visitors to access a status of the registration request.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 13 , wherein if additional information is needed the visitation registration program code further places the registration request on hold pending the additional information.

18. (Currently Amended) An automated method to register and schedule a plurality of potential visitors in a given timeslot for a visit with an inmate, the method comprising:

determining, via a prison interface, if the inmate has visitation privileges;
receiving, by operational performance of a computer, names of the plurality of potential visitors from a privileged inmate along with a request to provide registration information of all said potential visitors in order to schedule the visit between said all said potential visitors in person with the privileged inmate at a prison in which said inmate is incarcerated;

forwarding, via operational performance of said computer, said request to each of the plurality of potential visitors;

said each potential visitor, via operational performance of said computer, supplying its own requested registration information to a sender of the request;

receiving, via operational performance of said computer, an approval notification for at least one of the plurality of potential visitors to attend said visit;

one of said at least one of the plurality of potential visitors, via operational performance of said computer, accessing a visitation schedule to enter a proposed visiting time corresponding to the given timeslot to schedule the visit for all said at least one of the plurality of potential visitors with the privileged inmate;

determining, via operational performance of said computer, whether the privileged inmate is available at the proposed visiting time; and if the privileged inmate is available during the proposed visiting time, receiving, via operational performance of said computer, a schedule and confirmation number.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the request is based upon a visitation request supplied by the privileged inmate.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented process comprising:

- (a) determining, via a prison interface, if an inmate has visitation privileges and, only if so, continuing with steps (b) through (g);
- (b) said privileged inmate providing names and contact information of a plurality of potential visitors to an in-person inmate-visitation, said names and contact information being provided as an input to a computer, thereby obtaining a visitation request;
- (c) sending, by operational performance of said computer, a registration request to each of said named potential visitors to obtain information about said each of said named potential visitors;
- (d) said each of said named potential visitors responding to said registration request, by operational performance of said computer, by providing said information about itself;

(e) at least one of said named potential visitors receiving, by operational performance of said computer, a registration number uniquely identifying said at least one of said named potential visitors;

(f) one of said at least one of said named potential visitors proposing, by operational performance of said computer, a date and time for said in-person inmate-visitation at a correctional facility in which said inmate is housed for each of said named potential visitors who received a registration number; and

(g) deciding if any of said named potential visitors who received a registration number shall be disallowed to attend said visitation and communicating, by operational performance of said computer, said decision to all said named potential visitors having registration numbers.